



Urban District Council of Northwich.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,


AND

Vital Statistics, &c.,

For the Year ending Dec. 31st, 1908.

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NORTHWICH URBAN DISTRICT.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1908.

Population at Census, 1901	..	..	..	..	..	17,608
„ Estimated to middle of 1908	..	..	..	..	..	19,550
Area in Acres	..	..	..	..	..	1,758
Birth Rate per 1,000 living	..	..	..	..	..	24·2
Death „ „ „ „	..	..	..	..	..	14·8
„ „ from seven principal Zymotic Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	1·6
Deaths under 1 year, to 1,000 Births	..	..	..	..	..	157

The Urban District and Township of Northwich now includes what were formerly the parishes of Witton-cum-Twambrooks, Northwich, and Castle-Northwich, and parts of the parishes of Hartford, Leftwich and Winnington, and its population estimated to the middle of 1908 is 19,550, an increase of 250 over the population of 1907. The excess of births over deaths was 194. The birth rate continues to be double the death rate.

Births.—The total number of births registered was 475, giving a rate of 24·2 per 1,000. This is a considerable decrease upon the number for last year, being 76 less, and giving a rate which is 5·5 below the ten years' average.

Of these births 240 were males and 235 females. The number of illegitimate children born was 22, which is about 4½% of the births. The sexes were equal in number.

Supplementary Table 1 shows the numbers and rates for each of the four quarters of the year.

Deaths.—The total number of deaths registered was 308, of which 15 occurred in the Union House, and 2 in the Victoria Infirmary. In addition to these there occurred 18 deaths in these two Institutions of persons belonging to other districts, while 1 resident from this district died in the Liverpool Cancer Hospital, which makes the corrected number of deaths belonging to this Urban District 291, and gives a death rate of 14·8 per 1,000, which is well below the 10 years' average, but 1 per 1000 more than for the preceding year.

Of these deaths 75 were of infants under 1 year, 35 were from zymotic diseases, 20 were from consumption of the lungs, and 13 from consumption of other organs, 11 deaths were from cancer, 47 from diseases of the lungs other than consumption, only 2 were registered as being due to alcoholism, 10 were from premature birth, 31 from heart diseases, 3 from accidents, 3 from suicides, 28 from old age, 1 from childbirth, and the remainder from various other causes.

Supplementary Table II gives the numbers during each quarter, and the rate per 1,000.

Inquests.—There were 22 inquests held during the year, nearly one half of which were due to violence, 3 were suicide, from hanging, drowning and strangulation respectively, 2 were from being crushed by locomotives, 3 from falls, one from a horse, one from a cycle, and one from stairs, the first being accelerated by delirium tremens; 1 was accidentally drowned, 1 was found drowned, 1 was found dead in bed, 1 was from scarlet fever, 1 each from burns and scalds, 1 from tetanus, following upon a lacerated hand, the remainder being from natural causes.

Illegitimacy.—Twenty-two illegitimate children were born and 7 died during the year. Two died from premature birth, 1 aged two years from bronchitis, 1 from measles, 1 from measles and congenital syphilis, 1 from diarrhœa, and 1 from “wasting.” The mothers of two of them were described as domestic servants, and the remainder as of “no occupation.”

Infantile Mortality.—The number of deaths registered of infants under 1 year of age was 75, and of these 7 were from measles, 1 from scarlet fever, 14 from diarrhœa and gastro-intestinal diseases, 10 from premature birth, 2 from congenital defects, 11 from marasmus, only 3 from tubercular diseases, 14 from diseases of the lungs, the remainder being from various other causes.

The total number of deaths from zymotic diseases was 39, and of these 24 or nearly two thirds were infants under one year.

Table V and column 3 of Table IV give details of ages and causes of these infantile deaths.

The rate per 1,000 of Births is 157, or in other words about 15% of children born die before reaching one year of age.

Zymotic Diseases.—The number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year was 210, a heavy list but still an improvement on the previous year, being 57 less, 10 of these were diphtheria, 10 erysipelas, 188 scarlet fever, and 2 typhoid fever.

The bulk of the cases occurred during school age, 132 of the cases notified being children between 5 and 15 years of age, while at all other ages only 78 were notified.

During the first quarter 42 cases were notified, 5 being diphtheria, 2 erysipelas, 1 enteric fever, and 34 scarlet fever. During the second quarter 63 cases were notified, 5 being diphtheria, 2 erysipelas, 1 enteric fever, and 55 scarlet fever. During the third quarter 49 cases were notified, 3 erysipelas, and 49 scarlet fever, and during the fourth quarter 56 cases were notified 3 being erysipelas, and 53 scarlet fever.

Of these cases 62 were sent to the Isolation Hospital, 1 diphtheria and 1 enteric fever, both in the first quarter, all the other cases were scarlet fever, and 15 were sent in the first quarter, 13 in the second, 14 in the third, and 18 in the last.

Bacteriological Diagnosis.—Twenty reports have been received from Professor Delepine, 7 upon specimens of blood from persons suspected of having typhoid fever, 5 of these were negative and 2 affirmative. Reports were received upon swabs from the throats of 13 persons suspected of having diphtheria, of these 11 were negative and 2 affirmative.

School Closure.—During the first quarter of the year, a severe epidemic of measles spread through the district, and school closure was adopted when the schools were hopelessly invaded by the disease. Not being a notifiable disease, one does not learn of its prevalence until the school attendances are gravely affected. It has therefore

no chance of acting as a prophylactic. The list of closures was as follows:—

Church Walk Boys	...	January 30th to February 24th
Timber Lane Infants	...	„ „ „ „
„ „ Girls...	...	„ 31st „ „
Paradise Street Infants	...	„ „ „ „
St. Wilfrid's Infants	...	February 5th to March 2nd
Victoria Rd. (all departm'nts)		„ „ „ „
Danebridge Infants	...	„ 14th „ 9th
„ Mixed	...	„ 22nd „ 16th
Paradise Street Infants	...	„ 27th to April 20th

Housing.—There has been an increase in building, 46 new houses having been built, they are of a good type mostly, and many are semi-detached. All are occupied as soon as built, which shows the demand for decent dwellings.

The erection of cottages is conspicuous by its absence, and the need for decent cottages at a reasonable rental is great.

The number of houses condemned as unfit for habitation was 7, and have all been demolished.

Water Supply.—The town is supplied entirely by Cote Brook water, for domestic purposes, which is pure water but very hard with both temporary and permanent hardness.

The supply is not efficiently distributed for the needs of the population, and there is urgent need for an increase of available water. The houses in the higher part of the district are constantly without water for days at a time, and as they are most of them served entirely by water closets, it does not need a very lively imagination to perceive the grave nuisance which such a shortage of water must lead to.

Scavenging.—This has been in certain parts of the district unsatisfactory during the past year; ashpits and cesspools have been left until repeated complaints from the tenants have been made. The authority is alive to the trouble and have made other arrangements for the execution of this work during the coming year. Vigorous efforts should be made to do away with the cesspools, privy middens and ashpits, which are still far too numerous.

Sewerage.—This year has witnessed the completion of a scheme for the execution of works to sewer the town proper. The work is being carried out by Mr. Beckett, and drains the lower part of Witton Street, from Warrington Road to the River; also Leftwich, from the top of the Brockhurst Hill to the River. After collection at the lower part of the town, the sewage is pumped into the Darwin street main on the other side of the river, and carried thence by the Castle sewers to the Outfall Works at Wallerscote.

Full particulars will be found in the Inspector's Report which is appended, relating to Factories and Workshops, Lodging Houses, Dairies and Milkshops, and Slaughter Houses, as well as to the general sanitary work of the district.

HENRY EDWARD GOUGH,

Medical Officer of Health.

February 10th, 1909.

TABLE I.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.		* DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.		Deaths in Public Institutions.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in District.	Deaths of Residents reg- istered beyond District.	DEATHS AT ALL AGES. NETT.	
		Number	Rate.*	Number	Rate per 1,000 Births regis- tered.	Number	Rate.*				Number	Rate.*
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1898	18,300	650	35·5	124	187	380	20·2	49	22	1	359	19·6
1899	18,500	531	28·6	115	214	372	20·1	45	16	1	357	19·2
1900	18,820	593	31·5	92	155	308	16·3	35	11	1	298	15·8
1901	17,681	560	31·6	128	228	387	21·8	45	34	11	364	20·5
1902	17,950	546	30·4	71	130	270	15·0	42	15	...	285	15·8
1903	18,220	548	30·0	82	149	293	16·1	29	18	1	276	15·1
1904	18,500	522	28·2	85	162	283	15·2	26	16	3	270	14·5
1905	18,750	519	27·6	60	115	253	13·4	41	15	6	244	13·0
1906	19,000	520	27·3	72	140	256	13·4	36	14	2	244	12·8
1907	19,300	526	27·2	64	121	258	12·9	...	13	4	267	13·8
Averages for years 1898-1908.	18,502	551	29·7	89	160	336	16·4	34	17	3	296	16·0
1908	19,550	475	24·2	75	157	308	15·3	38	18	1	291	14·8

*Rates in columns 4, 8 and 13, calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 1,758.

Total population at all ages, 17,608.

Number of inhabited houses, 3,565.

Average number of persons per house, 4·9.

At Census
of
1901.

Institutions within the District receiving
sick and infirm persons from
outside the District

{ Victoria Infirmary, Northwich.
Union Workhouse, Northwich.

Institutions outside the District receiving
sick and infirm persons from
the District

{ Cancer Hospital, Liverpool.

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1908.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT. H.W.						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.						NUMBER OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.								
	At all Ages.	AT AGES—YEARS.					URBAN DIST.	I	2	3	4	5	6	I	2	3	4	5	6	7	
		Under I.	I to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.															65 and up- wards.
Small-pox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria including } ...	10	1	2	5	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Membranous croup }																					
Erysipelas	10	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever.....	188	2	50	126	7	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Typhus fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric fever	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Relapsing fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	211	3	52	132	8	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	61

Isolation Hospital {
Northwich Rural and Northwich, Middlewich, and
Winsford Urban Isolation Hospital, Leftwich.

Total available beds 50.

Number of diseases that can
be concurrently treated } 3

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1908.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN LOCALITIES (AT ALL AGES).						DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	URBAN DISTRICT.	WORKHOUSE.	INFIRMARY.				
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	16
Small-pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	12	7	5	..	..	..	..	12	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet fever	5	1	2	1	..	1	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping-cough .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and mem- branous croup .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Croup .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever { Typhus .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other continued .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Epidemic Influenza	4	..	..	..	..	1	3	4	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhœa.....	15	14	1	..	..	..	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteritis	3	2	1	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis	20	..	1	..	3	16	..	14	6	..	..	..	..	7
Other tubercular diseases..	13	2	7	3	1	..	..	13	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cancer, malignant disease.	11	..	..	..	..	10	1	11	..	..	..	..	..	1
Bronchitis	20	6	..	1	..	6	7	19	1	..	..	..	..	2
Pneumonia	26	8	10	1	1	4	2	26	..	..	..	..	..	1
Pleurisy	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other diseases of respira- tory organs .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alcoholism—Cirrhosis of liver	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Venereal diseases .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature birth.....	10	10	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	2
Diseases and accidents of Parturition	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Heart diseases	31	1	..	..	4	16	10	29	2	..	..	..	..	3
Accidents	3	..	..	1	1	1	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	6
Suicides	3	..	..	..	..	3	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other septic diseases.....	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Old Age	28	..	..	..	..	..	28	24	4	..	..	..	..	7
Convulsions	9	6	1	..	..	..	2	9	..	..	..	..	..	1
Marasmus	9	8	1	..	..	..	..	8	1	..	..	..	..	2
All other causes	63	8	8	..	4	26	17	61	1	1	..	..	..	3
All causes	291	75	37	7	15	87	70	274	15	2	..	..	..	35

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1908.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
ALL CAUSES:																	
Certified	16	1	3	1	21	5	6	5	5	1	3	5	7	8	7	2	75
Uncertified .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Infectious Diseases:																	
Small-pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicken-pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	2	..	7
Scarlet Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Diphtheria : Croup..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhœal Diseases:																	
Diarrhœa, all forms..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	3	..	3	..	8
Enteritis	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	4
(not Tuberculous) ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wasting Diseases:																	
Premature Birth	8	1	..	1	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Congenital Defects ..	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Injury at Birth .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Want of Breast-milk ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Atrophy, Debility, } Marasmus	3	..	1	..	4	1	2	..	1	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	11
Tuberculous Diseases:																	
Tuberculous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculous Peri-	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
tonitis : Tabes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mesenterica ....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	2
Other Tuberculous Diseases .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..
Other Causes:																	
Erysipelas .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Syphilis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Rickets .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
(not Tuberculous) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Convulsions	3	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	5
Bronchitis .....	..	..	1	..	1	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Laryngitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	..	2	1	1	..	..	8
Suffocation, over-	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
laying .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Causes .....	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	4
	16	1	3	1	21	5	6	5	5	1	3	5	7	8	7	2	75

Population Estimated to middle of 1908—19,550.

Births in the year { legitimate—453. Deaths in the year of { legitimate infants—68.
 { illegitimate—22. { illegitimate infants—7.
Deaths from all Causes at all Ages—291.

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE I.—BIRTHS, 1908.

	Males.	Females.	Totals for Quarters.	Rate per Thousand.	No. of Illegitimate Births.
1st Quarter	54	63	117	23·9	8—3 M., 5 F.
2nd "	65	55	120	24·5	5—3 M., 2 F.
3rd "	63	73	136	27·8	6—5 M., 1 F.
4th "	58	44	102	20·8	3—3 F.
For whole year	240	235	475	24·2	22—11 M., 11 F.

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE II.—DEATHS, 1908.

	1st Quarter.		2nd Quarter.		3rd Quarter.		4th Quarter.		Totals for Year.	Rate
	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Per Thousand.
Whole District..	91	18·1	71	14·5	53	10·8	76	15·5	291	14·8

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. 1	Number of		
	Inspections. 2	Written Notices. 3	Prosecutions. 4
Factories (Including Factory Laundries).	29	..	..
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries).	151	4	..
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report).	8	..	..
Total	118	4	..

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
I	2	3	4	5
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	6	6	..	..
Want of ventilation	4	4	..	..
Overcrowding .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Want of drainage of floors	1	1	..	..
Other nuisances	17	17	..	..
†Sanitary Accommodations {	insufficient .. .. .	..	..	..
	unsuitable or defective ..	6	6	..
	not separate for sexes ..	..	..	..
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bake-house (S. 101) .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (SS. 97 to 100). ..	..	..	..	..
Other offences .. .. .	..	..	..	..
(Excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report).				
Total	34	34	..	..

*Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8, of the Factory and Workshop Act as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

†For districts not in London state here whether Section 22 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, has been adopted by the District Council; and if so, what standard of sufficiency and suitability of sanitary accommodation for persons employed in factories and workshops has been enforced.

NATURE OF WORK.		OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107.						
		Lists received from Employers.					Numbers of Addresses of Outworkers received from other Councils.	Numbers of Addresses of Outworkers forwarded to other Councils.
		Twice in the year.		Once in the year.				
				Lists.	Outworkers			
					Con- tractors	Work- men		
I	Lists. 2	Outworkers 3	Lists. 4	5	6	7	8	
Wearing Apparel :								
(1) making, &c. 	19	..	19	2	....
(2) cleaning and washing	
Lace, lace curtains and nets	
Sacks 	
Furniture and Upholstery	2	..	2	....	....
Fur pulling 	3	..	3	....	....
Umbrellas 	5	..	5	....	....
Paper Bags and Boxes	
Basket making	3	..	3	....	....
Brush making 	
Stuffed Toys 	
Cables and Chains 	
Anchors and Grapnels.. 	
Cart Gear 	
Locks, Latches and Keys	
TOTAL 	32	..	32	2	....

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (S. 131) at the end of the year.		Number.
I		2
Important classes of workshops, such as workshop bakehouses, may be enumerated here.		
Total number of workshops on Register.		151

WORK.

[illegible]

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
I	2
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (S. 133) ..	2
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (S. 5) {	
Notified by H.M. Inspector ..	2
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector	2
Other .. .. .	....
Underground Bakehouses (S. 101) :	
Certificates granted during the year .. .. .	....
In use at the end of the year .. .. .	....

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S OFFICE,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
NORTHWICH,

6th January, 1909.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Urban District Council of Northwich.

21st Annual Report.

GENTLEMEN,

I have again pleasure in submitting my Annual Report, which is the 21st I have laid before you.

As mentioned in my last report, 1907 held the record for an epidemic of Scarlet Fever, and I am sorry to say that the year that is past is not much better. The epidemic has been more or less prevalent throughout the year, in the first quarter of the year 42 cases were reported, the second quarter 63, the third quarter 49, and the last quarter 56, the majority of the cases being very mild. In my opinion if more attention was given to the regular disinfection of schools, the epidemic would soon cease. To keep a school well disinfected, the walls and floors would require sponging nightly, and thorough fumigation carried out once a month.

The Buckinghamshire Education Committee has carried out something similar to what I suggest in 25 of their schools, at a cost of £22 10s. for six months, and owing to the more regular attendance it is estimated that the government grant for the time being will show an increase of about £37 7s. 6d.

I should like to point out that there has been a great reduction in Typhoid Fever and Diphtheria during the past year, which is very pleasing; with the sanitation of the town continually improving, I am hoping to see these two classes of Zymotic diseases gradually disappear.

Scavenging.—The work of scavenging the town is carried out by three contractors, one having 2 districts, and the other two 1 each to cleanse.

I am sorry to report that I have had some trouble with two of these contractors during the year, and on several occasions I have had to report them to the Council. I also regret to state that I have had to serve the special notices on these two contractors before I could get the work carried out to my satisfaction.

If the suggestion of the Committee *re* for the whole district to be scavenged by one contractor, can be carried into effect, there is no doubt that it would be done in a more efficient manner to the better satisfaction of the Committee and myself. One thing that has been detrimental to the work being carried out satisfactorily, has been the lack of supervision over the men by the Contractors.

During the year the scavengers have removed 8,788 loads of dry ashes, and 2,392 loads of excreta, at a cost £1,135. This shows an increase of 2,392 loads of dry ashes, and a decrease of 290 loads of excreta. The latter decrease is probably caused by the number of pails and cesspools converted into the water carriage system. The increased quantity of dry ashes is accounted for by the number of ashbins coming into use in preference to ashpits. The contractors are also removing more trade refuse than formerly, and I should like to recommend that the Committee instruct the future contractors or contractor to remove all trade refuse, excepting foundries and works where large furnaces are in use. This would remove a good deal of unpleasantness which at present exists between the scavengers and tradesmen of the town.

At the meeting when the consideration of the contracts for the ensuing year is brought forward, the question of the disposal of the refuse and excreta should be thoroughly gone into.

One hundred and fifty notices for the removal of house refuse have been received by the contractors from me, being one-third more than last year.

Sanitary Pails.—One hundred and forty four sanitary pails have been supplied from the Council's stores, 30 of these are renewals, and so supplied free of cost. The number of renewals increase each year. There are at the present time over 1,500 certified Council's pails in use in the district.

Demolition of Property.—Seven houses have been demolished by order of the Council during the year, in most cases rendered necessary by the effect of subsidence; the properties were all small four-roomed cottages.

New Property Erected.—Forty-six houses have been erected during the year, all of which have been fitted with up-to-date sanitary arrangements.

I have served only 14 legal notices on property owners during the year, as I find that the owners are generally ready to make any improvement on being requested by me to do so.

I have written 142 letters with reference to sanitary matters during the year, and the improvements and alterations suggested have invariably been carried out.

Cesspools.—Fourteen cesspools have been converted into pail closets, these conversions have been mostly in districts where the water carriage system would not be advisable on account of the vicinity being liable to subsidence. Thirty-five cesspools have been converted into water closets. These old cesspools are generally converted into covered-in ashpits, and serve the purpose very well.

Ashpits.—Eight ashpits have been pulled down and reconstructed on a more sanitary principle.

Filthy Premises.—Five cases of filthy premises have been dealt with, nine more cases have been visited, but improvements in these cases immediately took place.

Overcrowding.—Seven cases of overcrowding have been under my notice, but arrangements being made satisfactory to myself no legal proceedings have been necessary.

Manure Heaps.—Twenty manure heaps have been removed under notice during the year. These are always a nuisance, but when fish garbage is placed on, then they become dangerous to the public health. If fish mongers could be persuaded to provide a covered tin in which to deposit their offal, and have it removed as often as may be necessary, it would be an advantage to all concerned.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.—During the year all cow-keepers, dairymen and purveyors of milk within the district have been re-registered under the Dairies, Cowshed and Milkshops Order. Two purveyors discontinued the sale of milk, 1 of the cow-keeper's premises had to be condemned, the premises of another had to be thoroughly cleansed, and the shippens, milkhouse, and adjoining premises lime-washed, 1 cow-keeper is having his premises rebuilt on a more modern principle, with a complete system of drainage. I was informed of a case of scarlatina at the house of a milk-seller outside the district, but who also purveyed milk in the district; this case was isolated on the premises, and not removed to hospital.

Slaughter Houses.—The number of slaughter houses now on the register is 12, all of which have been periodically visited during the year, and all found to be clean and in good order.

Lodging Houses.—There are 6 common lodging houses on the register. These have been visited both by night and day at various times during the year. I found 1 overcrowded, 4 in a most filthy state, the floors, walls and bedding being filthy. A report of these cases were brought before the Council, and a notice served on the tenants, this notice was complied with and the necessary cleansing carried out to my satisfaction. One had defective sanitary arrangements, but this was put right. Lime-washing was ordered in each case.

Canal Boats.—There are no canal boats plying along that part of the river which passes through the Council's district; the boats so plying come under the Merchant Shipping Act.

Factories and Workshops.—There are 188 Factories and Workshops on the register, 6 have changed hands during the year, a bakery has been converted into a tailor's shop, a fustian factory to a printer's establishment, a dressmaker's establishment to a sweet shop, and an out-worker's room has been made into a sewing factory, the other two had only changed hands.

Two bakehouses have been reported for not lime-washing, and 1 for defective sanitary arrangement, 1 of the dressmakers was called on to abate overcrowding, 2 factories were called upon to reconstruct their closets from the pail system into the water carriage system, this work is not yet completed, 1 of the sausage factories was found to be in a filthy state, and was closed until the place was thoroughly cleansed, disinfected, and lime-washed. The drains at 4 workshops have been opened, cleaned and relaid, the back premises at one of the workshops having become defective through subsidence, had to be lifted and the drains relaid. No infectious disease was found in any of the factories and workshops during the year.

Unsound Food.—Weekly inspections of slaughter houses, butchers' shops, and markets, have been made during the year, and I am pleased to say I have had no ground to complain, 12 boxes of fish were destroyed by instructions, and later 12 to 14 pounds of fish were also destroyed; this was during the warm weather.

Infectious Disease.—Two hundred and three notifications of infectious disease were received made up as follows; scarlet fever 183, diphtheria 11, erysipelas 7, and typhoid 2. This is a slight decrease on last year. Sixty-two of these were removed to the Isolation

Hospital: *i.e.*, scarlet fever 60, diphtheria 1, and typhoid 1. Two hundred and seventeen houses have been disinfected during the year; several of these were houses disinfected after a death from tuberculosis, the relatives having requested me to do so. In my opinion this should always be done after a death from this terrible disease.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I desire to thank the members of the Council, for the patient consideration and support you have given me in helping me to carry out the duties with which I am entrusted.

I am, Gentlemen, yours obediently,

CHAS. POTTS,

Sanitary Inspector.